

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the present application. The present response amends claim 1, leaving pending in the application claims 1-9. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, claim 1 is objected to as failing to include a terminating period “.”. Claim 1 has been amended to include a terminating period, and as such should be sufficiently definite. This amendment is not intended to alter the scope of the claim or limit any equivalents thereof. As claim 1 is sufficiently definite, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to claim 1 be withdrawn.

II. Double Patenting

Claims 1-9 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-7 and 15-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,046 (*Opsal*). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, a timely filed terminal disclaimer accompanies this response in order to expedite issuance of the pending claims. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

III. Conclusion

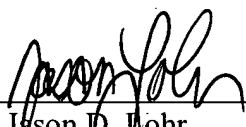
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the pending claims and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-1703, under Order No. TWI-15220. **A duplicate copy of the transmittal cover sheet attached to this Response to Office Action Mailed May 6, 2004, is provided herewith.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 2, 2004

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